

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/696,155

Examiner

Mark Blouin

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to After final amendment of 7/5/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,7 and 9-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Detailed Action

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Noe (512) 472-7800 on August 3, 2007.

- **Claim 1** – replace lines 10-12 with: -- a two-piece fastener for the case assembly comprising a screw and a nut, the functional unit attached to an electrical connector, wherein both pieces of the two-piece fastener assembly extend through the electrical connector, and wherein the nut is covered by the bumper. –
- **Claim 7** – line 1: “storage medium” is changed to “disk drive”
- **Claim 7** – line 6: “storage medium” is changed to “disk drive”
- **Claim 7** – lines 8-9: “extends beyond a functional unit of the storage medium in the x and z directions.” is changed to “extends beyond an assembly structure of the disk drive in the x and z directions. ”
- **Claim 13**– replace lines 11-12 with: -- wherein a two-piece fastener for the case assembly comprising a screw and a nut, the functional unit attached to an electrical

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connector, wherein both pieces of the two-piece fastener assembly extend through the electrical connector, and wherein the nut is covered by the bumper. –

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-4,6,7,9-13,15-17, and 19 (renumbered as 1-15) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in **Claims 1 and 13**, specifies a disc reading apparatus, which requires:

“a two-piece fastener for the case assembly comprising a screw and a nut, the functional unit attached to an electrical connector, wherein both pieces of the two-piece fastener assembly extend through the electrical connector, and wherein the nut is covered by the bumper”.

These features, in combination with the other features of Claims 1 and 13, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

- The prior art does not teach nor reasonably suggest, as recited in **Claim 7** specifies a storage medium defining x,y, and z directions and having an assembly structure capable of being detachably loaded into a PC card, which requires:

“...a connector for insertion in a slot formed in the PC card , the connector having tapered guide features that provide a guiding function for the storage medium relative to the PC card; an elastic member forming an external shape not departing from a form factor that is required in mounting the disk drive to the PC card; and wherein positions of two-dimensional side surfaces of an external shape is dependent on the connector and the elastic member, and the elastic member extends beyond an assembly structure of the disk drive in the x and z directions.”

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 7, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

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3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. William Korzuch, can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Blouin
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Art Unit 2627
August 8, 2007

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